

<i>Hazard Review</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cuts, scrapes, abrasions, punctures• Rabies	
<i>Personal Protective Equipment</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appropriate Gloves	
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Please note that this Safe Work Practice is intended for the Randall Museum and not other sites that may house animals, such as the San Francisco Zoo.

This safe work practice has been broken down into two sections:

- A. General
- B. Precautions for Specific Animals
 - Bats
 - Birds of Prey

The General section provides information that applies to just about every situation. The section on Precautions for Specific Animals gives information that may be specific or unique to a particular animal.

A. GENERAL

Before

1. A healthy animal means healthy workers, therefore:
 - All animals entering a collection must undergo a four week quarantine period using all standard quarantine procedures. In addition, during quarantine, animals will have a physical exam, weekly fecal samples tested and one fecal culture. X-rays and blood work will be done at the discretion of the Zoo veterinarian.
 - Animals should be monitored daily for signs of illness, and they should receive appropriate veterinary care as needed.
 - Ill animals with a recent history of abortion or diarrhea should not be exhibited.
 - Animals should be housed to minimize stress and overcrowding, which can increase shedding of microorganisms. Minimizing stress and

overcrowding can reduce potential exposures from wild animal rabies reservoirs.

- Animal byproducts should be composted.

B. PRECAUTIONS FOR SPECIFIC ANIMALS

Bats

1. Only staff who have received the rabies vaccination series shall handle bats.
2. Don gloves before handling bats.
3. If you are bitten by a bat and your glove and/or skin is punctured, report the bite immediately to your supervisor and seek medical treatment.

Birds Of Prey (Hawks, Owls)¹

1. Don falconer's gloves before handling any birds of prey. Make certain the jesses are shortened so that the bird cannot lift its leg high enough to strike with its talons. This requires holding (choking up) the jesses as close to the glove as is reasonable so that the bird has some ability to lift its legs, but not enough to strike.
2. When handling a bird of prey on a falconer's glove protect the un-gloved hand at all times from the bird. Never reach towards the bird with the un-gloved hand. When tying or untying the bird to its perch protect the hand that is untying the falconers knot by covering or shielding it with the leather gloved hand.
3. Always approach the bird with confidence (calm and assertive) but with respect for its potential to cause serious injury. Avoid any sense of over-confidence, complacency or dominance over the animal. Birds respond negatively to overtly threatening behavior.
4. Do not attempt to right a bird that has lost its balance while you are on a ladder. If a bird loses its balance and cannot regain its balance on its own, return to the floor with the bird. Allow the bird to regain its balance by resting on a perch or other stable surface before resuming an attempt to place a bird on a high perch.
5. When constructing leather jesses do not apply any jess grease or oil until the jess has been made in entirety².

¹ RPD Industrial Investigation, EHS Case #3725, DOI 3/4/08

² RPD Industrial Investigation, EHS Case #3745, DOI 3/11/08

6. If you are clawed by a bird and/or skin is punctured, report the wound immediately to your supervisor and seek medical treatment.

References:

1. Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, CDC/MMWR V. 54 RR 4, 2005

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